Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Diantha Schull Is Appointed Interpretive Programs Officer

Diantha D. Schull has been appointed the Library's interpretive programs officer, effective January 3. This is a new position that vests in a single Library officer responsibility for both exhibits and the related programs that interpret the collections and exhibits of the Library of Congress.

Ms. Schull comes to the Library of Congress from the New York Public Library, where she had served as manager of exhibitions since 1983. At the New York Public Library she managed the administrative and artistic direction of exhibitions at the main exhibition facilities of the library, including the Central Research Library's Gottesman Hall. Her work on major interpretive exhibitions included research, curatorial preparation, conservation, design, graphics, installation, interpretation, maintenance, and evaluation. Traveling exhibits and loans for exhibitions were also under her supervision. The other activities for which she was responsible included public and scholarly programming and collaborative programs with local and national educational and professional organizations.

From 1978 to 1983 Ms. Schull worked as a program analyst and assistant to the director of the Museum Aid program, New York

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State Council on the Arts. There she was responsible for evaluating applications from art, history, and science museums and presenting recommendations to an advisory panel and to council members. She also analyzed funded programs, provided technical assistance, developed funding guidelines and policies, supervised field auditors and consultants, formulated requests for proposals, and developed evaluative criteria for museum programs.

A native of New York State, Ms. Schull earned her undergraduate degree in comparative literature, with high honors, from Marlboro College in 1967 and her master's degree in 1969 from Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies and Folk Culture, a cooperative endeavor of the New York State Historical Association and the State University of New York. She has served as a panelist, lecturer, or consultant for numerous cultural and educational organizations, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Association of Museums, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bank Street College of Education of Columbia University, the New York City Museum Educators' Roundtable, Cornell University Libraries, and the New York State Council on the Humanities. She won the John Ben Snow Prize for the book, *Landmarks of Otsego County* (Syracuse University Press, 1980) and was the recipient of a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship granted by the English-Speaking Union.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Information Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Talking Book Program Is Lauded in Review

"It would be hard for blind Americans today to conceive of life without the Talking Book Program," stated Barbara Pierce, associate editor of the *Braille Monitor*, publication of the 50,000-member National Federation of the Blind, about the Library of Congress free reading program for blind and physically handicapped persons. Her remarks appeared in her review of *Talking Books: Pioneering and Beyond*, a recently published monograph that details the history and achievements of the Library of Congress Talking Book Program administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH).

Ms. Pierce, who formerly was assistant director of the alumni association of Oberlin College, concluded her review by stating, "as readers of this publication know, the members of the National Federation of the Blind can take pride in the fact that they have played a substantial role in helping shape this program which serves as one of the instruments of the advancement of the blind from second-class citizenship to first-class status in society. Our partnership with the libraries has been a significant step on our road out of slavery, a noteworthy milestone on our journey to freedom."

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"Documenting America" Opens at the Library

Library officials along with representatives of the photography industry celebrated the opening as the inaugural event in the year-long observance of "150 Years of Photography, 1839–1989." Cutting the ceremonial cake at the opening are (left to right) Charles A. Powers, Jr., Chemco Technologies; Thomas J. Dufficy, National Association of Photographic Manufacturers; Ruth Ann Stewart, assistant librarian for national programs; Alan Jabbour, director of the American Folklife Center; and James Chung, International Photographic Council.

The Library on December 14 officially opened the exhibition, "Documenting America, 1935–1943," drawn from photographs in the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Collection in the Library's Prints and Photographs Division. The exhibition presents 15 series of photographs from the work of the famed government office of documentary photographers during the 1930s and early 1940s. A book by Library curators Carl Fleischhauer and Beverly Brannan, paralleling the contents of the exhibition, was pub-

(Cont. on p. 25)

Library of Congress Monograph Receipts for 1987 and 1988

The statistics which follow are for the monographic pieces acquired by the Library of Congress in fiscal years 1987 and 1988, as reported by the Exchange and Gift, Order, and Overseas Operations Divisions. These statistics include only current monographs which are defined as those published in the current and preceding four calendar years. Earlier imprints are considered "retrospective" and are not included in these statistics, except for the People's Republic of China, for which "current" monographs have been defined as those published from 1967 to the present. Serials and other forms of library material are not included in these figures.

Readers should not infer too much from these statistics. They are not the same as those published in The Librarian's *Annual Report*, which show the number of pieces added to the Library's collections, nor do they necessarily reflect the acquisitions policies of the Library, local publishing patterns, or dealer responsiveness. Because the majority of current U.S. imprints are acquired for the Library's permanent collections through copyright deposits and the Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program, relatively small numbers of U.S. monographs are acquired by exchange, gift, or purchase. The number of books purchased from the United Kingdom has declined during the past ten years because many of these publications are now received through copyright deposit and the CIP Program.

Purchase statistics are derived from payment records and all others are based on receipts. Some figures may be affected by the receipt of invoices or particularly large shipments of publications that immediately precede or follow the closing date for statistical reporting.

All prices are given in U.S. dollars, including special foreign currency purchases from Bhutan, Burma, India, Iran, and Pakistan. Some prices include expenses incurred in acquiring or binding the volumes.

Please direct any inquiries regarding these statistics to the Director for Acquisitions and Overseas Operations, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Footnotes can be found at the end of the tables.

Acquisitions of Monographs by the Library of Congress

	1987				1988				
	By Exchange or Gift	By Purchase		Total	By Exchange or Gift	By Purchase		Total	
Place of Publication	Number	Number	Average Price	Book Receipts	Number	Number	Average Price	Book Receipts	Percent Change
Afghanistan	9	3	$3.73	12	224	30	$58.23	254	2016.7
Albania	0	104	9.51	104	0	105	10.02	105	1.0
Algeria	26	327	9.53	353	3	163	10.07	166	-53.0
Angola	0	1	30.00	1	0	0	0	0	-100.0
Anguilla	0	28	6.64	28	0	12	9.85	12	-57.1
Antigua and Barbuda	0	8	9.81	8	0	26	5.59	26	225.0
Argentina	593	837	12.34	1,430	340	895	11.20	1,235	-13.6
Australia	1,271	644	16.56	1,915	926	501	24.43	1,427	-25.5
Austria	410	729	33.31	1,139	426	672	37.54	1,098	-3.6
Bahamas	15	129	9.25	144	0	8	31.13	8	-94.4
Bahrain	10	1	96.79	11	2	1	113.56	3	-72.7
Bangladesh	58	224	2.86	282	73	357	2.62	430	52.5

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
Barbados	29	32	$10.83	61	9	35	$16.44	44	- 27.9
Belgium	568	603	27.19	1,171	550	380	32.10	930	- 20.6
Belize	0	2	15.00	2	0	0	0	0	- 100.0
Benin	0	12	8.62	12	0	21	12.14	21	75.0
Bermuda	0	9	12.11	9	3	9	9.00	12	33.3
Bhutan	39	12	43.17	51	0	3	18.33	3	- 94.1
Bolivia	40	226	10.42	266	61	301	10.76	362	36.1
Botswana	3	0	0	3	85	1	12.50	86	2766.7
Brazil	4,161	2,063	4.31	6,224	3,197	1,739	4.51	4,936	- 20.7
Brunei	14	35	3.00	49	43	0	0	43	- 12.2
Bulgaria	1,088	766	7.69	1,854	1,100	727	7.46	1,827	- 1.5
Burkina Faso	0	63	14.74	63	0	29	13.09	29	- 54.0
Burma	234	98	2.46	332	138	26	4.84	164	- 50.6
Burundi	38	42	7.15	80	49	26	10.10	75	- 6.3
Cambodia	43	0	0	43	5	0	0	5	- 88.4
Cameroon	373	107	12.71	480	2	9	6.41	11	- 97.7
Canada	4,599	1,213	17.33	5,812	3,886	1,172	18.15	5,058	- 13.0
Cape Verde	0	7	6.19	7	0	3	2.55	3	- 57.1
Cayman Islands	3	21	11.04	24	6	0	0	6	- 75.0
Central African Republic	0	2	36.12	2	0	4	14.00	4	100.0
Chile	1,529	411	11.15	1,940	649	379	10.79	1,028	- 47.0
China (People's Republic)	9,043	7,170	3.73	16,213	13,368	5,646	5.62	19,014	17.3
Colombia	259	498	12.97	757	434	744	11.74	1,178	55.6
Comoros	32	0	0	32	1	0	0	1	- 96.9
Congo	0	4	32.49	4	0	0	0	0	- 100.0
Costa Rica	149	263	11.47	412	104	328	12.97	432	4.9
Cuba	358	148	8.58	506	260	177	16.12	437	- 13.6
Cyprus	44	31	26.90	75	33	58	23.71	91	21.3
Czechoslovakia	582	544	5.91	1,126	500	572	6.36	1,072	- 4.8

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
Denmark	1,859	592	$24.19	2,451	1,745	461	$29.74	2,206	- 10.0
Djibouti	25	11	1.49	36	5	0	0	5	- 86.1
Dominica	7	13	6.13	20	0	0	0	0	- 100.0
Dominican Republic	61	222	11.08	283	69	218	13.61	287	1.4
Ecuador	62	378	9.16	440	54	398	7.09	452	2.7
Egypt	3,849	1,743	2.43	5,592	4,032	1,862	2.35	5,894	5.4
El Salvador	12	68	9.55	80	13	97	9.98	110	37.5
Equatorial Guinea	0	9	11.52	9	0	0	0	0	- 100.0
Ethiopia	494	5	11.68	499	306	13	11.29	319	- 36.1
Fiji	19	2	9.99	21	2	166	24.39	168	700.0
Finland	2,837	386	29.13	3,223	1,779	351	30.69	2,130	- 33.9
France	2,189	5,038	24.34	7,227	2,546	4,419	27.34	6,965	- 3.6
French Antilles [1]	5	145	17.93	150	0	117	13.52	117	- 22.0
Gabon	0	12	12.93	12	0	5	57.35	5	- 58.3
Gambia	0	28	15.04	28	0	47	17.54	47	67.9
Germany (Federal Republic)	4,560	7,293	28.62	11,853	4,039	7,428	33.47	11,467	- 3.3
Germany (Democratic Republic)	865	434	14.37	1,299	993	511	16.90	1,504	15.8
Ghana	2	58	8.73	60	10	39	2.99	49	- 18.3
Greece	73	779	10.27	852	171	1,137	12.14	1,308	53.5
Grenada	0	1	10.00	1	0	3	12.08	3	200.0
Guatemala	79	68	12.36	147	59	79	13.13	138	- 6.1
Guinea	0	20	9.90	20	0	10	6.38	10	- 50.0
Guinea-Bissau	0	4	4.89	4	0	13	4.31	13	225.0
Guyana	9	53	7.46	62	6	18	5.85	24	- 61.3
Haiti	51	56	11.70	107	12	52	20.25	64	- 40.2
Honduras	9	124	10.57	133	7	165	11.42	172	29.3
Hong Kong	66	466	13.03	532	27	518	9.64	545	2.4
Hungary	658	1,353	10.90	2,011	603	1,222	11.14	1,825	- 9.2
Iceland	20	5	12.97	25	1	66	41.94	67	168.0
India	908	5,445	6.43	6,353	1,243	6,623	5.16	7,866	23.8

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
Indonesia	2,748	1,174	$2.97	3,922	3,520	1,369	$2.79	4,889	24.7
Iran	58	1,481	5.62	1,539	72	921	9.29	993	- 35.5
Iraq	184	401	8.17	585	179	316	6.53	495	- 15.4
Ireland	56	229	15.69	285	91	239	19.63	330	15.8
Israel	968	1,850	17.35	2,818	882	1,697	19.41	2,579	- 8.5
Italy	557	3,278	29.98	3,835	853	3,427	32.61	4,280	11.6
Ivory Coast	5	64	30.29	69	7	52	34.06	59	- 14.5
Jamaica	10	82	11.39	92	7	51	17.03	58	- 37.0
Japan	2,880	4,853	26.52	7,733	3,275	6,461	30.82	9,736	25.9
Jordan	41	198	7.09	239	45	335	6.76	380	59.0
Kenya	292	335	6.56	627	115	190	9.84	305	- 51.4
Korea (North)	49	174	7.43	223	41	220	9.42	261	17.0
Korea (South)	322	4,183	13.64	4,505	279	3,616	15.09	3,895	- 13.5
Kuwait	48	279	10.34	327	39	398	9.97	437	33.6
Lebanon	36	1,062	9.75	1,098	7	527	9.40	534	- 51.4
Lesotho	0	43	27.32	43	48	22	15.93	70	62.8
Liberia	15	0	0	15	2	4	12.43	6	- 60.0
Libya	12	0	0	12	12	0	0	12	0
Liechtenstein	1	2	90.96	3	2	7	106.06	9	200.0
Luxembourg	215	0	0	215	195	1	2.66	196	- 8.8
Macao	0	1	2.84	1	0	0	0	0	- 100.0
Madagascar	14	4	12.29	18	27	31	8.19	58	222.2
Malawi	19	21	5.91	40	38	21	11.18	59	47.5
Malaysia	91	358	6.23	449	173	311	7.62	484	7.8
Mali	3	1	23.25	4	0	31	13.22	31	675.0
Malta	33	0	0	33	11	0	0	11	- 66.7
Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	15	14.84	15	0
Mauritius	43	32	9.09	75	37	16	10.70	53	- 29.3
Mexico	926	1,286	11.87	2,212	1,379	1,824	12.43	3,203	44.8
Monaco	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	- 100.0

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
Mongolia	49	0	0	49	78	0	0	78	59.2
Montserrat	0	6	$6.18	6	0	13	$7.23	13	116.7
Morocco	16	168	12.59	184	4	364	6.16	368	100.0
Mozambique	1	0	0	1	106	3	8.43	109	10800.0
Nepal	331	31	3.20	362	96	159	3.10	255	- 29.6
Netherlands	1,499	1,452	24.15	2,951	1,563	1,132	24.38	2,695	- 8.7
Netherlands Antilles	19	21	17.51	40	8	56	22.18	64	60.0
New Caledonia	27	0	0	27	38	0	0	38	40.7
New Zealand	620	53	12.97	673	275	47	20.00	322	- 52.2
Nicaragua	23	123	10.09	146	9	134	9.70	143	- 2.1
Niger	1	44	3.50	45	0	29	29.37	29	- 35.6
Nigeria	123	590	11.18	713	90	535	8.05	625	- 12.3
Norway	308	334	23.62	642	171	438	30.20	609	- 5.1
Oman	150	15	3.48	165	21	97	5.31	118	- 28.5
Pakistan	1,415	614	2.46	2,029	1,356	554	2.18	1,910	- 5.9
Panama	37	98	17.77	135	19	87	19.89	106	- 21.5
Papua New Guinea	66	0	0	66	24	1	16.27	25	- 62.1
Paraguay	10	188	9.24	198	21	213	11.24	234	18.2
Peru	136	446	11.44	582	158	553	8.94	711	22.2
Philippines	258	285	14.18	543	124	539	13.05	663	22.1
Poland	1,126	604	9.19	1,730	1,238	661	7.32	1,899	9.8
Portugal	403	643	9.36	1,046	297	622	11.46	919	- 12.1
Puerto Rico	51	86	13.91	137	24	65	24.39	89	- 35.0
Qatar	24	1	1.39	25	60	78	6.72	138	452.0
Reunion	25	183	3.76	208	32	48	10.32	80	- 61.5
Romania	308	726	2.09	1,034	343	725	1.92	1,068	3.3
Rwanda	8	11	11.24	19	48	20	21.58	68	257.9
St. Christopher (St. Kitts)-Nevis	0	0	0	0	1	2	13.50	3	0
St. Lucia	0	13	8.34	13	0	4	3.12	4	- 69.2

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
St. Vincent	0	9	$8.69	9	0	0	0	0	-100.0
Saudi Arabia	76	249	8.30	325	427	716	$9.79	1,143	251.7
Senegal	1	50	19.55	51	0	60	16.25	60	17.6
Seychelles	3	11	9.92	14	1	0	0	1	-92.9
Sierra Leone	0	51	9.51	51	0	67	20.77	67	31.4
Singapore	41	143	13.47	184	73	175	13.50	248	34.8
Somalia	45	0	0	45	105	0	0	105	133.3
South Africa [2]	705	713	12.05	1,418	589	786	7.24	1,375	-3.0
Spain	796	3,173	18.34	3,969	1,141	3,229	18.49	4,370	10.1
Sri Lanka	67	98	2.44	165	73	359	2.71	432	161.8
Sudan	293	21	13.08	314	132	165	9.58	297	-5.4
Surinam	54	11	26.95	65	1	6	26.95	7	89.2
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	30	2	3.12	32	0
Sweden	1,587	294	25.78	1,881	1,629	434	34.80	2,063	9.7
Switzerland	725	1,278	32.76	2,003	695	1,392	41.10	2,087	4.2
Syria	65	55	12.06	120	49	148	8.86	197	64.2
Taiwan	2,120	2,728	14.30	4,848	1,546	990	17.71	2,536	-47.7
Tanzania	79	22	6.36	101	107	6	10.40	113	11.9
Thailand	905	521	4.69	1,426	908	413	6.59	1,321	-7.4
Togo	3	43	13.52	46	0	31	19.06	31	-32.6
Trinidad and Tobago	18	27	12.72	45	12	22	11.81	34	-24.4
Tunisia	24	204	10.14	228	63	90	8.93	153	-32.9
Turkey	160	606	7.78	766	61	1,071	8.77	1,132	47.8
Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0	0	1	17	2.83	18	0
Uganda	4	31	3.74	35	43	25	9.31	68	94.3
United Arab Emirates	11	0	0	11	33	6	0.94	39	254.5
United Kingdom [3]	1,535	3,663	24.74	5,198	1,460	3,449	23.55	4,909	-5.6
U.S.A.	7,124	24,492	13.64	31,616	6,427	14,316	20.09	20,743	-34.4

Place of Publication	1987 By Exchange or Gift Number	1987 By Purchase Number	1987 By Purchase Average Price	1987 Total Book Receipts	1988 By Exchange or Gift Number	1988 By Purchase Number	1988 By Purchase Average Price	1988 Total Book Receipts	Percent Change
U.S. Misc. Pacific Islands	0	22	$20.29	22	0	1	$11.00	1	-95.5
U.S.S.R.	7,811	5,521	7.31	13,332	12,383	4,094	8.20	16,477	23.6
Uruguay	139	332	11.34	471	289	319	12.69	608	29.1
Vatican City	0	0	0	0	0	4	31.42	4	0
Venezuela	279	822	10.77	1,101	272	370	9.43	642	-41.7
Vietnam	327	97	4.44	424	33	25	3.58	58	-86.3
Virgin Islands (U.K.)	1	5	4.65	6	0	4	5.37	4	-33.3
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	1	12	16.39	13	0	16	16.15	16	23.1
Western Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	2	15.00	2	0
Yemen (Arab (Republic)	0	16	9.06	16	4	36	10.57	40	150.0
Yemen (Democratic Republic)	0	0	0	0	0	6	6.41	6	0
Yugoslavia	344	447	11.31	791	520	720	8.22	1,240	56.8
Zaire	3	86	9.23	89	1	192	8.82	193	116.9
Zambia	115	10	12.23	125	207	17	10.28	224	79.2
Zimbabwe	128	20	9.27	148	109	44	11.03	153	3.4
TOTAL	86,589	116,237	14.79	202,826	91,163	104,303	17.36	195,466	-3.6

FOOTNOTES: [1] Includes Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane (French Guiana), St. Martin, and St. Barthélemy.
[2] Includes figures for Namibia.
[3] Includes Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), Northern Ireland and miscellaneous island possessions.

Talking books *(Cont. from p. 18)*

Talking Books: Pioneering and Beyond was written by Marilyn Lundell Majeska, formerly a staff writer-editor at NLS/BPH and currently a technical editor at the Federal Research Division. The Librarian honored Mrs. Majeska at special ceremonies in the Great Hall in July 1988.

The book is available in regular print, as well as recorded and braille formats, from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542.

Documenting *(Cont. from p. 18)*

lished in the fall by the University of California Press.

The exhibition marks the inauguration of a year-long series of public events around the world commemorating "150 Years of Photography, 1839–1989." The Library's project was supported by the members of the National Association of Photographic Manufacturers. The association was represented by Charles A. Powers, Jr., and Thomas J. Dufficy at the opening ceremonies. Also present was James Chung of the International Photographic Council.

STAFF NEWS

Tax Tips for Staff

"Tax Tips IV" will be presented by Arthur Lieb of the Office of The Librarian, in the Mumford Room on Tuesday, February 7, at 12 noon. The program is sponsored by the Library of Congress Professional Association and is open to all staff members.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Mr. Lieb will present the staff with an overview of Federal income taxes. Recent income-tax law changes will be discussed and a question and answer period will conclude the program.

Arthur Lieb, a certified financial planner, is a personal financial planner and consultant and a tax preparer.

Information Forums In February

The Library of Congress Professional Association welcomes all interested persons to participate in the Information Forums in February. These informal brownbag lunches meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

February 2—Publications Forum: "Publishing Bibliographies," Room LM 642, 11:30 a.m.

February 7—Performing Arts Forum: "Hero's Trilogy: Poetry with Jazz," Jere Carroll, poet/performer, and Joseph Cunliffe, musician. Mary Pickford Theater.

February 14—Soviet Studies Forum: "Environmental Degradation and Protection in the Soviet Union" (with slides) David McClave, Federal Research Division. Room LM 139, 11:30 a.m.

February 21—Ethnic Resources Forum: "75 Years of Collecting Afro-American History," Karen Jefferson, curator of manuscripts, Howard University. Room LM 642.

February 28—Ethnic Resources Forum: "A Case Study: The Schomberg Center for Research in African American Culture," Ruth Ann Stewart, assistant librarian for national programs, National Programs Department. West Dining Room.

Staff Members Develop Their Taste for Languages

The Library's Cooking Club and the Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) cosponsored the first International Potluck Luncheon, on November 3. The successful event arose from an idea from LCPA's recently instituted Language Tables, whose members meet on a regular basis during lunch periods to converse in a range of languages from Chinese to Ukrainian.

The potluck luncheon was a celebration of the continuing popularity of the language tables, according to spokesman Peter Vankevich, vice president of LCPA. More than 200 staff members attended the luncheon, which was held in the Mumford Room, and accounted for nearly $100 being contributed to the LCPA Continuing Education Fund.

During the luncheon staffers could feast on Russian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Spanish, Swedish, and Ukrainian delicacies. Mr. Vankevich added that programs scheduled for next year also include tables in sign language and Latin. He also expects that due to the turnout at the luncheon in November, there will be another one next year.

Staff Carpool Locator

Rider/driver seeks to join carpool from Fairfax City, Vienna, or environs. Currently on flexitime but willing to change or adjust to carpool. Call Eugene Ossa, ext. 79567.

STAFF NEWS

Mary L. Vass Dies, Worked at the Library 42 Years

Mary Louise Vass, who had retired from the Manuscript Division on July 3, 1988, after exactly 42 years' service in the Library of Congress, died in Northern Virginia Doctors' Hospital on December 12, following an illness of more than a year. Born on October 13, 1928, in Charleston, W. Va., she grew up on Washington's Capitol Hill. After graduation from Eastern High School, she began to work at the Library of Congress on July 3, 1946. For ten years, she held a secretarial position with Joseph P. Blickensderfer, editor of the *United States Quarterly Book Review*. In 1956, she transferred to the Reference Department office as secretary to Associate Director Roy P. Basler, thus beginning a working partnership that lasted 18 years. When Dr. Basler was promoted to departmental director, Miss Vass became the director's secretary; after he was appointed chief of the Manuscript Division in 1968, she accompanied him there as his special assistant. She remained with the division after his retirement in 1974, and in 1983, in recognition of her skills, she was promoted to administrative officer, the position she held when she retired.

Miss Vass shared with her parents a devotion to public service. Her mother, Mary Faye Vass (1898–1983), and her father, Carl D. Vass (1899–1982), came to Washington, D.C., in 1935, both having previously taught in one-room schoolhouses in West Virginia. Mrs. Vass worked in the Library of Congress from 1943 to 1961, serving last as supervisor of the Copyright Office's Incoming Mail Room. Mr. Vass had a variety of jobs: mail sorter in postal railway cars, administrator of Civil Service examinations, clerk in the Treasury Department, and, finally, an Internal Revenue Service employee.

Superlatives abound in Miss Vass's performance evaluations. The terms "invaluable" and "indispensible" appear repeatedly. When she returned to work for a few months during her terminal illness, Division Chief James H. Hutson acknowledged unequivocally, "She is irreplaceable." Years earlier, Dr. Basler had written, in recommending a quality pay raise for her, "Her efficiency in handling the flow of work has all but eliminated some perennial typing and filing backlogs in this Division." John C. Broderick, Dr. Basler's successor as division chief, testified, "It is no exaggeration to say of Mary L. Vass that all aspects of her performance 'not only exceed normal requirements but . . . deserve special commendation.'" This assertion was supported by praise for her leadership of young employees, for her monitorship of budget expenditures and gift and trust fund accounts that few other staff members had learned to interpret, and for her polite, unobtrusive way of making certain that visitors to the division were fully accommodated. Her duties were numerous and diverse, yet she was always willing to help with any chore.

Known as "Louise" to her family, Mary Vass for the most part divided her time between performing her work in the Manuscript Division and caring for her aging parents. Wherever she went she drew responses of respect, admiration, and affection. Rarely did anyone come to know her without being grateful for the privilege. As a close companion for 14 years, she had "Skipper," a small, affectionate Schipperke dog who was ailing when Mary went into the hospital and who died a few days after she did.

Seeing Mary Vass at work was instructive, inspiring, and comforting. In easy concentration, she went from task to task. Often several projects were undertaken simultaneously. Situations that would have left others feeling hard-pressed, or discouraged were greeted by her with a shrug or a sigh ending with a smile. If matters became especially difficult or tedious, or if she caught herself in a mistake, she was likely to laugh. She could make the most trying tasks bearable. Almost without fail, she exuded a contagious spirit of cheerfulness. She seemed never to ask more of life than was objectively reasonable. Her movements were swift and precise. When she walked from one place to another, even for a short distance, she swung quickly along with a distinctive stride.

At the end, she gently but firmly accepted few visitors, apparently in order to compose herself quietly for the final responsibility, that of giving back the life she had conducted so well for 60 years.

Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lovel V. Carver, of Colonial Beach, Va., and a brother, Charles E. Vass, of Owings, Md.

—Oliver H. Orr

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Thursday, February 2
☐ "Publishing Bibliographies," Publications Forum of the LC Professional Association (LCPA). Room LM 642, 11:30 a.m.

Friday, February 3
☐ "Eyes on the Prize," film series for Black History Month. Pickford Theater, 11:30 a.m.

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7
☐ Keynote speech for Black History Month, speaker to be announced. Coolidge Auditorium, 10 a.m.

☐ "Hero's Trilogy: Poetry with Jazz," Jere Carroll, poet/performer, and Joseph Cunliffe, musician. LCPA. Mary Pickford Theater, 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8
☐ "The Tides of Party Politics: Two Centuries of Congressional Elections, 1789–1989," cartographic exhibition opens. Entrance Hall of the Madison Building. Part of the Library of Congress observance of the Bicentennial of the Congress.

Thursday, February 9
☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, February 10
☐ "Eyes on the Prize," film series for Black History Month. Pickford Theater, 11:30 a.m.

☐ Beaux Arts Trio. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

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